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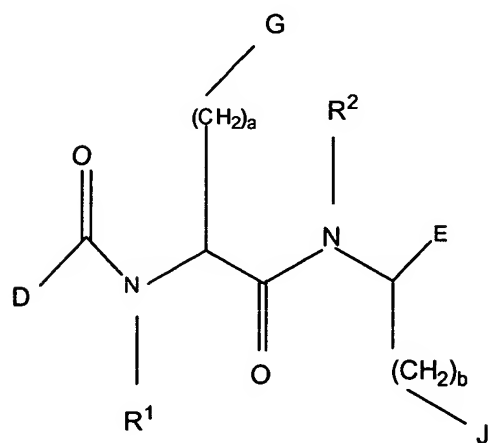
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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-23 are cancelled.

24. (amended) A compound of formula I

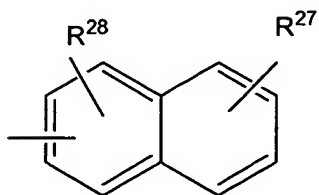


wherein

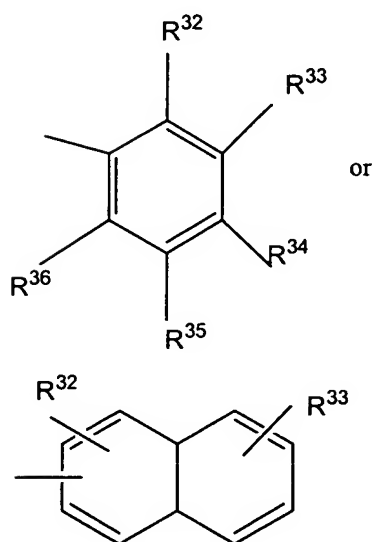
R¹ and R² are independently hydrogen, or C₁₋₆-alkyl;

a and b are independently 1 or 2;

G is

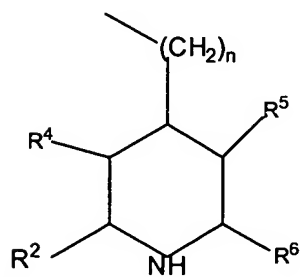


J is

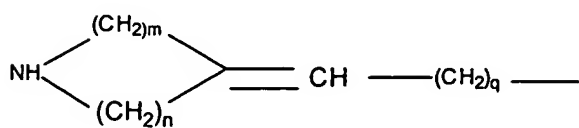


wherein R^{27} , R^{28} , R^{32} , R^{33} , R^{34} , R^{35} and R^{36} independently are hydrogen;

D is



or



wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 , are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl;

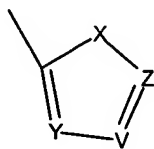
n , m and q are independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

when E is

$-\text{CONR}^{12}\text{R}^{13}$

wherein R^{12} is hydrogen and R^{13} is C_{1-6} -alkyl

or



wherein

X is $-\text{O}-$,

Z is $-\text{N}=$,

V is $-\text{C}(\text{R}^{16})=$

Y is $-\text{N}=$,

R^{16} is $-(\text{CH}_2)_w\text{R}^{19}$;

Wherein R^{19} is C_{1-6} -alkyl and w is independently 0, 1, 2 or 3,

Deleted: R^{13} and R^{19} are independently
or C_{1-6} -alkyl \dagger
and w is independently 0, 1, 2 or 3

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (previously added) The compound according to claim 24, wherein D is piperidin-4-ylidenyl or 2-methylpiperidin-4-yl.

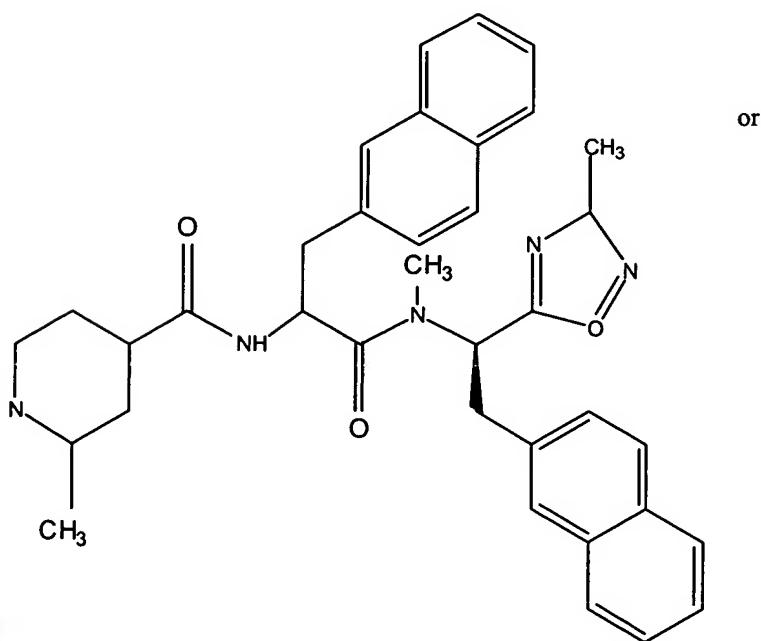
26. (previously added) The compound according to claim 24, wherein E is

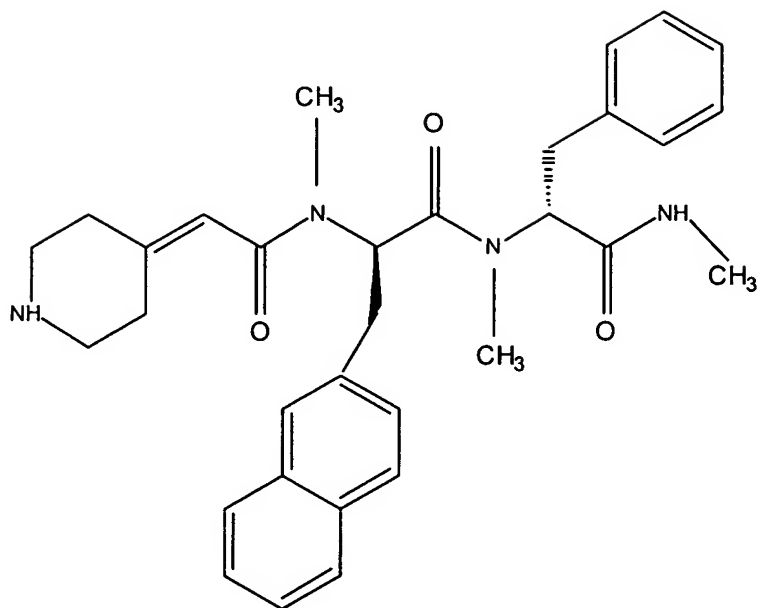
methylcarbamoyl or 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl.

27. (previously added) The compound according to claim 24, wherein R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

28. (previously added) The compound according to claim 24, wherein a and b independently are 1.

29. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 24, wherein said compound is





30. (currently amended) A method of increasing rate and extent of growth, improving milk and/or wool production and/or treating ailments in an animal resulting from a deficiency of growth hormone, the method comprising administering to said animal in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 24.

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31. (currently amended) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 24 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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32. (previously added) The composition according to claim 31 in unit dosage form, comprising from about 10 to about 200 mg of said compound.

33. (previously added) The composition according to claim 31 for oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral administration.

34.(currently amended) A method of stimulating the release of growth hormone from the pituitary, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 24.

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35. (previously added) The method according to claim 34, wherein the effective amount of said compound is in the range of from about 0.0001 to about 100 mg/kg body weight per day.

36. (previously added) The method according to claim 34, wherein said administration is carried out by the oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral route.

37. (previously added) The method according to claim 34, wherein the effective amount of said compound is in the range of from about 0.001 to about 50 mg/kg body weight per day.